

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IAEA, MX

SUBJ: DUAL PURPOSE NUCLEAR PROJECT WITH MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 6918, REPEATED USMISSION VIENNA 180

1. REFTEL SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT CONSIDER INSTRUCTING US DEL TO IAEA MEETING TO EXPLORE INFORMALLY ATMOSPHERE FOR RE-OPENING SUBJECT WITH MEXICAN DEL AT THAT CONFERENCE. WHILE DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO SUCH INFORMAL LOW-KEY DISCUSSION AS MEMBERS US DEL MAY WISH TO HOLD IF MEXICAN OFFICIALS RAISE MATTER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT USG SHOULD OFFICIALLY PRESS MATTER AT THIS TIME.

2. US HAS TRIED IN RECENT YEARS TO SOLICIT GOM PARTICIPATION IN FURTHER STUDY CONCERNING DUAL PURPOSE NUCLEAR PROJECT. THIS EFFORT HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. ONE REASON MAY HAVE BEEN MEXICAN INSISTENCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT A DUAL PURPOSE PROJECT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER UNTIL A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE COLORADO RIVER
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SALINITY PROBLEM WAS FOUND. NOW THAT THAT ISSUE HAS BEEN

SETTLED TO GOM SATISFACTION, WE DO NOT FEEL THAT IT IS NECESSARILY IMPORTANT FOR US TO BRING UP THE DUAL PURPOSE PROJECT RIGHT NOW. USG POSITION IS WELL KNOWN IN THIS MATTER AND IT COULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO LET GOM ASSUME INITIATIVE.

3. THESE INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO REFLECT ANY BASIC CHANGE IN OUR POSITION. WE AGREE THAT USG SHOULD JOIN WITH GOM IN WHATEVER STUDIES ARE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP THE INFORMATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT A DUAL PURPOSE PROJECT IS ACTUALLY FEASIBLE IN ALL RESPECTS. THE EMBASSY MAY TAKE SUITABLE OCCASION FROM TIME TO TIME TO REMIND FLORES DE LA PENA AND OTHER MEXICAN OFFICIALS THAT THE USG IS READY TO RESUME THE STUDIES WHENEVER THE GOM IS INTERESTED. RUSH

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